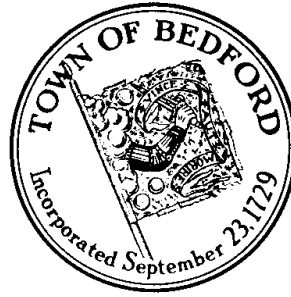


TOWN OF BEDFORD
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730



BOARD OF HEALTH

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Heidi Porter, MPH, REHS/RS, Director of Public Health

MEMORANDUM

TO: Owners/Operators of Properties in Bedford where Animals are known to be Kept
FROM: Heidi Porter, Director of Public Health
DATE: July 1, 2016
RE: Revision of Board of Health Keeping of Animals Regulation

This memorandum serves as notice to owners/operators of all properties in the Town of Bedford where it is known and documented that animals are kept, that the Board of Health Keeping of Animals Regulation (Regulation) is undergoing revision. You are being sent this notice if you are known to keep animals, regardless of whether you have a permit with the Board of Health under the Regulation.

The Board of Health has acknowledged for some time that the Regulation requires revision and has been working for several months to revise and rework the existing Regulation into a more concise document that protects public health, provides guidance to residents who choose to keep backyard animals, prevents nuisance conditions and maintains that farms are exempt from the Regulation.

You are receiving this notice because you are a current permittee under the existing Regulation or you were or are exempt from regulation but known to keep animals and we conduct an annual barn inspection of your premises on behalf of the MA Department of Agricultural Resources. Your input is important to the Board of Health as they go through this process.

The most recent version of the working draft of the Regulation is posted on the Board of Health website under the ***Keeping of Animals – Regulation Revision*** link. There were many interested parties who attended the June 20, 2016 Board of Health meeting and the Board received numerous comments during that meeting.

There are several things that the Board intends to keep in place:

- There will be a Regulation and an application process to keep animals
- Farms will be exempt from regulation
- The regulations will include parameters to prevent nuisance conditions

Some revisions that the Board is considering:

- There will be no minimum number of animals under which regulation is exempt. All properties where animals are kept, except farms, will require to be permitted. Farms may be asked to document their exemption.
- Definition of a farm will be based on an MGL definition, not just parcel size.
- No strict or prescribed size or square footage requirements for keeping of animal facilities. Applicant shall submit a layout plan, manure plan, facilities plan and present that to the Board for consideration

As the Board of Health continues to review the regulation and make changes, any revisions will be posted on the website under the ***Keeping of Animals – Regulation Revision*** link. The Board encourages the public and interested parties to review the posted revisions and provide comment to the Board through Heidi Porter, Director of Public Health, at hporter@bedfordma.gov or the address above. Comments should be received at the Board of Health by August 24, 2016.

The Board of Health will next meet publically to discuss the Keeping of Animals Regulation Revisions on September 12, 2016. Prior to that date, the version of the regulation to be discussed and considered at that meeting will be posted on the website under the above mentioned link. A final version of the regulation will be made available to the public via the referenced link prior to a future Board of Health vote.